

## Pastore Urges Speed in Building U.S. Antiballistic Missile System

Sen. John O. Pastore (D-R.I.) called yesterday for "full speed ahead" on building an anti-ballistic-missile system around the United States.

His plea comes at a time when the Johnson Administration appears about ready to take the plunge and build a limited missile defense.

Pastore, chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, said his Committee will push for an anti-ballistic-missile (ABM) system "with the same vigor" with which it pressed for nuclear submarines and hydrogen bombs.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), who heads the military applications unit of the Committee, will hold hearings soon on the ABM issue, Pastore said. The date has not been set.

"We must be as strong in defense to preserve our society as we must be strong in

offense to discourage and deter an attack," Pastore said at the launching of the nuclear submarine Narwhal in Groton, Conn.

"With all our offensive power," he said, "our defense posture could be our Achilles heel." He said, after noting Red China's nuclear progress, that "we cannot live in a world of atomic energy and discount completely the possibility of surprise attack on our Nation."

His remarks came one day after Secretary of State Dean Joint Atomic Energy Committee "urgent" to have discussions with the Soviet Union on limiting offensive and defensive missiles.

President Johnson postponed any decision on ABM production and installation in this year's budget in hopes of negotiating an agreement for both the U.S. and Russia to

forgo any extensive system.

Russia already has a missile defense near Moscow and what military leaders believe is a second shield across the path U.S. ICBMs would have to travel.

Cost estimates of a limited system range from \$3 billion to \$10 billion, depending on how many missile sites are built. Backers contend such a system would be effective against first-generation Chinese ICBMs, but not against sophisticated Soviet ICBMs.

President Johnson put \$377 million in his current budget to finance advancing an ABM system toward the production phase if negotiations appeared futile. He could take the steam out of the Jackson hearings by announcing the release of that money or hold off his decision until the fiscal 1969 budget is put together.